

081041Z Mar 02

UNCLASSIFIED PTO5775

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ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	IO-00	L-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1132
INFO NSC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 000615

SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX AND ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT AND
SCHLACHTER, AF/RA FOR SWANN, INR/R/MR, NSC FOR JENDAYI
FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ZI](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIMBABWE DECIDES; HARARE
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[1](#)1. THE BULAWAYO-BASED GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY
"CHRONICLE" HAS CARRIED AN ARTICLE, BASED ON
ANONYMOUS "HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES," ACCUSING THE
UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN OF PLANNING A "MAJOR
MILITARY OFFENSIVE" TO OUST THE MUGABE
ADMINISTRATION IF IT STAYS IN POWER AFTER THE MARCH
9 AND 10 PRESIDENTIAL POLL. ACCORDING TO THE LEAD
ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 6 EDITION OF THE
"CHRONICLE," UNDER HEADLINE "MAJOR MILITARY
OFFENSIVE PLANNED," A U. S. AND BRITISH-LED
INSURGENCY IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN
MATABELELAND SOON AFTER THIS WEEKEND'S ELECTION.
EXCERPTS OF THIS LENGTHY PIECE FOLLOW:

[1](#)2. "THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE
ALLEGEDLY SETTING THE STAGE FOR A MAJOR MILITARY
OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE
SPONSORING OF AN INSURGENCY INTO MATABELELAND
AFTER THIS WEEKEND'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WHICH
PRESIDENT MUGABE IS HEAVILY TIPPED TO WIN, 'CHRONICLE'
LEARNT THIS WEEK. HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES IN LONDON AND
WASHINGTON SAID THE DEPLOYMENT OF A PARAMILITARY
GROUP CODE NAMED CIRA (CAMPAIGN IN RURAL AREAS) BY
THE OPPOSITION MDC IN RURAL MATABELELAND WAS AIMED
AT 'TESTING THE WATERS' AHEAD OF THE FULL
DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED UNITS IN THE REGION TO FIGHT
THE 'MUGABE REGIME' AFTER THE ELECTIONS. . .
ACCORDING TO SOURCES, BRITAIN AND THE U.S. PLAN TO
SPONSOR AN INSURGENCY USING MDC'S STRONGHOLD OF
MATABELELAND AND LATER JUSTIFY MILITARY
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INTERVENTION AND THE TOPPLING OF PRESIDENT MUGABE.
'THE PEOPLE OF MATABELELAND WILL ONCE AGAIN BE USED
AS SACRIFICIAL LAMBS IN A POWER GAME BY THE WEST
WHICH IS INTENT ON INSTALLING A PUPPET REGIME IN
ZIMBABWE. THE PLAN WILL TAKE SHAPE AFTER THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. AN INSURGENCY WILL START
IN RURAL MATABELELAND. THESE PEOPLE WILL
SUPPOSEDLY BE FIGHTING THE OUTCOME OF THE POLLS.
WHEN THE GOVERNMENT MOVES IN TO CRUSH THE
INSURGENCY, THE WEST WILL THEN INTERVENE AND TOPPLE
PRESIDENT MUGABE,' SAID A HIGHLY PLACED SOURCE
PRIVY TO THE PLAN. BRITAIN AND AMERICA WILL
JUSTIFY THEIR INTERVENTION BY PROFFERING THE
ARGUMENT THAT THEY WILL HAVE PREVENTED MASS
GENOCIDE OF THE NDEBELE PEOPLE. . . ."

SULLIVAN

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